

Sherrod Brown, United States Senator *for* Ohio

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Meeting with Local Leaders in Sandusky and Erie Counties

Open conversations with local leaders are an opportunity for Sen. Brown to bring commonsense, Ohio-grown ideas to Washington. Sen. Brown met with Sandusky County leaders in January and Erie County leaders in March for roundtable discussions on economic development, education, and infrastructure investments. These roundtables are part of a series of listening sessions that Sen. Brown will convene across Ohio during his second term in the Senate. In Sen. Brown's first term, he held more than 200 community roundtable meetings, including at least one session in each of Ohio's 88 counties.



Sen. Brown meets with local leaders in Sandusky County as part of a series of listening sessions across Ohio.

On issue after issue, roundtables like this have helped Sen. Brown craft legislation with real results for hardworking Ohio families. Many of Sen. Brown's successful legislative initiatives were the result of ideas generated at Ohio roundtables. For example, the idea for the Strengthening Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success (SECTORS) Act, a bipartisan jobs bill to train workers for high-growth jobs, was sparked at a roundtable on innovation.

Inside...

- Hosting a Fair for Job Seekers in Cambridge 1
- Advocating for Economic Development Initiatives in Appalachia..... 2
- Helping Ohio Students Attend Service Academies . 2

- Bolstering Firefighter Safety 2
- Preserving Benefits for Hundreds of Retired Coal Miners 3
- Calling for the Creation of a National Network for Manufacturing Innovation 3
- Sen. Brown's Office is Here to Serve You 4



Sen. Brown speaks with Whirlpool workers last year in Clyde, discusses enforcing trade laws to level the playing field for American manufacturers like Whirlpool Corp.

Helping Whirlpool Workers Compete Against Cheap Imports

Trade enforcement is about standing up for American jobs. Too often, countries ignore trade laws by subsidizing domestic industries—making it harder for Ohio manufacturers to compete with cheap foreign imports. In January, Sen. Brown applauded a unanimous decision from the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) to impose duties on clothes washers from South Korea and Mexico. Whirlpool has facilities and distribution centers in Clyde, Marion, Findlay, Greenville, Ottawa, and Columbus. Sen. Brown testified before the ITC on behalf of Ohio workers at the Whirlpool Corp. in December. This victory will improve the competitiveness of Whirlpool and level the playing field for American manufacturers.

Standing with Children and Families to Combat Rare Diseases

Though children make up 20 percent of the U.S. population, less than 10 percent of federal research dollars go toward research on pediatric conditions. Pediatric research institutions and pediatric researchers face real financial challenges that threaten their important work. Alongside a Northwest Ohio family whose daughter is living with cystic fibrosis, Sen. Brown visited ProMedica Toledo Children's Hospital to unveil new legislation aimed at designating more funding for pediatric medical research. The National Research Network Act would improve investments in pediatric research and help children overcome numerous devastating diseases and conditions.



Sen. Brown visited ProMedica Toledo Children's Hospital to discuss support for pediatric medical research.

"The Toledo harbor supports more than 2,640 jobs and generates an estimated \$121 million annually," Sen. Brown said. "The Harbor Maintenance Act would ensure adequate resources to maintain this critical commercial and recreational asset."

Investing in Toledo Harbor

The Toledo harbor is critical to commercial and recreational life in Northwest Ohio. With the port and river supporting thousands of jobs, we cannot afford further delays to harbor maintenance, which could slow commerce, stifle economic growth, and cost jobs. Sen. Brown was a lead sponsor of bipartisan legislation introduced in February that would ensure increased funding for maintenance and operations of federal ports—including Toledo's. The Harbor Maintenance Act would ensure adequate resources to maintain and dredge Ohio's 15 harbors each year, so that shipping and other port-related activities can continue without interruption.

Recognizing Ohio Workers at Cedar Point

Manufacturing jobs are the key to Ohio's economic recovery, and the construction of Cedar Point's new roller coaster, GateKeeper, reflects the skills of Ohio's workforce. In March, Sen. Brown visited the construction site of Cedar Point's newest roller coaster to recognize the leaders and local workers who made this \$30 million project possible.

We know how to make things in Ohio—from tires to car frames and now roller coasters. Sen. Brown recognized Cedar Point for choosing Ohio manufacturers to build its newest thrill ride, creating jobs, and strengthening the economies of Sandusky, greater Erie County, and all of Ohio.



Sen. Brown greets workers at Cedar Point, visits construction site of new roller coaster made in Ohio.

The following component parts were made in Ohio:

- The steel track and supports were fabricated by Clermont Steel Fabricators in Batavia,
- The electrical "nerve center" of the ride was completed by Firelands Electric in Sandusky,
- The plumbing and air systems were put in by S. A. Comunale from Fremont, and
- The foundations were poured by A.A. Boos and Sons from Oregon,
- The station was built by Bert Witte Contractors from Amherst,
- The front gate is being built by Lew's Construction from Sandusky.

Calling for the Creation of a National Network for Manufacturing Innovation

American workers have the drive, the creative thinking, and the determination to out-innovate the rest of the world. Sen. Brown is working to ensure that they have the opportunity to do so.

Sen. Brown is drafting legislation to create a National Network of Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI), which would establish 15 hubs of manufacturing innovation so that the United States can out-innovate the rest of the world while creating thousands of high-paying, high-tech manufacturing jobs.

The proposal is designed to bring together industry, universities and community colleges, federal agencies and all levels of government to accelerate manufacturing innovation. It would establish public-private institutes



Sen. Brown visits the nation's first advanced manufacturing hub located in Youngstown, calls for the creation of a proposed National Network of Manufacturing Innovation.

to leverage investments in industrially-relevant manufacturing technologies. The institutes would focus on investments with broad applications to bridge the gap

Continue on page 4

Story continues from page 3

between basic research and product development, provide shared assets to help companies – particularly small and medium-size manufacturing enterprises – access cutting-edge capabilities and equipment, and create an unparalleled environment to educate and train students and workers in advanced manufacturing skills.

The NNMI is modeled on the National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute (NAMII) in Youngstown. Sen. Brown led the charge for this first advanced manufacturing hub to be located in Ohio. His efforts helped procure \$30 million in federal fund-

ing for the new hub in Youngstown, which will be matched by \$40 million in private funds.

In March, Sen. Brown toured NAMII and called for the creation of a National Network of Manufacturing Innovation. Later in the month, Sens. Brown and Blunt successfully included an amendment to support the creation of a National Network of Manufacturing Innovation in the Senate-passed budget resolution.

Sen. Brown will continue to work to establish the infrastructure necessary to attract new investment in high-tech manufacturing and create thousands of high-paying jobs.

Sen. Brown's Office is Here to Serve You

Sen. Brown is committed to assisting Ohioans who have encountered difficulties with federal matters. Ohioans can call Sen. Brown's state offices and work directly with a constituent services representative to obtain information or resolve an issue they are having with a federal agency. Common areas of inquiry include: Social Security and Medicare benefits, veterans' benefits, military service issues, passport or visa problems, housing matters, IRS issues, and more.

For example, after a Northwest Ohio Air Force reservist from Huron County was denied Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits and was unable to resolve the problem, he contacted Sen. Brown's office. Sen. Brown's office worked with the St. Louis VA Education Office to track down all of his paperwork, resolve his case,



Sen. Brown listens to an Ohio veteran

and generate an approval letter within three hours. The constituent received his pay 5 days later.

Another Northwest Ohio constituent had been waiting for the release of his Social Security retroactive benefits since he received a favorable decision a year earlier. Sen. Brown's office submitted an inquiry to the Social Security Administration, and shortly thereafter, the retroactive funds were released to the constituent.

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